

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
June 18, 2007**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. Commission Chairman Cameron Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioners Alex Irby, Bob Barowsky, Wayne Wright, Gary Power and Randy Budge responded to the roll call. Commissioners Tony McDermott was absent.

Present in the Director's Office: Director Cal Groen; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Anadromous Fishery Manager; Sam Sharr, Fisheries Anadromous Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; and Roger Phillips, reporter from *The Idaho Statesman*.

Steve Yundt, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, participated via telephone.

The meeting was called to consider staff proposals for 2007 summer chinook salmon seasons.

RULES

Game Fish: 2007 Summer Chinook Salmon Seasons and Limits

Sharon Kiefer, provided updates on the Summer Chinook salmon run (Appendix 40, Exhibit 59). She reported the run size through June 14 at Lower Granite Dam was 21,634 adult spring and summer Chinook, this is below the normal 10 year average which is just over 50,000. The pre-season forecast for McCall hatchery summer Chinook adults crossing Lower Granite Dam is approximately 1,800. The broodstock goal for this run is 1,300 adults. Therefore, the surplus available for the combined tribal and non-tribal fisheries is likely to be between 500 and 900 fish with a state share ranging from 250 to 450 fish.

Department Recommendation:

Adopt rules in "Idaho 2006 Summer Chinook Salmon Seasons and Rules" except modified as follows:

SEASON:

Thursday, June 28 until notice of closure.

Staff recommends continuous 7 day per week fishing (same as 2006) instead of interval fishing that was implemented in the spring Chinook fishery for the following reasons:

- Effort pattern in this fishery shows no difference between weekday and weekend fishing so opportunity is not greater on weekends.

- Run timing of the hatchery summer Chinook to and in the South Fork Salmon River is likely more compressed than spring Chinook run timing in the Snake Basin, thus interval fishing may miss important periods of the run.
- Because of low surplus expectations, an interval opening during peak of the run could actually reduce total days of fishing opportunity because limits could be achieved in a couple of days. The outcome would be closure in the middle of the interval, which would be confusing and dissatisfying to anglers. Providing fishing days during the “ramping up” of the run should reduce the likelihood for large variations in daily catch and allow more opportunity.
- Daily fishing provides more knowledge about arrival timing and peak timing for future management.

07-72 Commissioner Irby moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ADOPT BY PROCLAMATION THE STAFF PROPOSAL FOR THE 2007 SUMMER CHINOOK SALMON SEASONS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment 8:16 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary